

REMARKS

Prior to this amendment, claims 1-17 were pending in this application. In the Office Action claims 1-4, 8-10 and 12-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,166,964 to Hasegawa (“Hasegawa”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,667,515 to Farren (“Farren”) and claims 5, 6 and 11 were found to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The present amendment amends claims 1, 14, 16 and 17 and cancels claim 5. Therefore, claims 1-4 and 6-17 are presented for examination after the entry of this amendment. No new matter is added by the amendments to claim 1, 14, 16 and 17. Reconsideration of the present application as amended is requested.

Section 103(a) Rejections

In the Office Action, claims 1-4, 8-10 and 12-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hasegawa in view of Farren and claims 5, 6 and 11 were found to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. To expedite prosecution of the present application and without consideration of the merits of the rejections contained in the Office Action, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 14, 16 and 17 to include the limitation of allowable dependent claim 5. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any subject matter surrendered by these amendments in a related application(s).

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 14, 16 and 17, as amended, are allowable over the cited references. Consequently, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejections of independent claims 1 14, 16 and 17 and the Section 103 rejections of the claims depending from the amended independent claims be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims of the form elected above now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance for such claims at an early date is respectfully requested.

In the event that a fee or refund is due in connection with this Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No 19-0615. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned via (617) 768-2421.

Respectfully submitted,



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